uploading the extracted data from each supply chain site to a data collection site, the data collection site collecting the extracted data; and

upon a request from a user associated with a supply chain site,

formatting, at the data collection site, a portion of the collected data into one of a plurality of views, responsive to criteria selected by the user, for presentation to the user, the portion of formatted data being dependent on access rights granted to the user's supply chain site, and

publishing the formatted data view to the user's supply chain site.

11.   (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein data stored at the supply chain sites is stored in legacy database systems.

23.   (Amended) A system for monitoring supply chain activity, comprising:

a data collection center, comprising

a data collector, and

a publisher for publishing data from the data collector upon request; and

a plurality of independent supply chain sites, each supply chain site comprising

a data storage device for maintaining supply-related data,

a data transfer engine (DTE) which extracts the supply-related data from the data storage device and transfers the extracted data to the data collection center,

input means for allowing a user associated with a supply chain site to query

the data collector, and

a display for displaying data published by the publisher in response to a query.

38.   (Amended) A computer program product for monitoring a supply chain, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code thereon, including program code which:

receives, at a data collection site, supply-related data extracted from at least one

independent supply chain site, supply-related data being maintained in different formats

at different supply-chain sites;

stores, at the data collection site, the received data in a common format; and

upon a user request, the user being associated with a supply chain site,

formats a portion of the collected data into one of a plurality of

views,

responsive to criteria selected by the user, for presentation to the user, the

portion of formatted data being dependent on access rights granted to the

user, and

publishes the formatted data view to the user.

41.   (Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor located at a data collection site;

a memory system connected to the processor; and

a computer program, in the memory, which:

receives supply-related data extracted from at least one independent supply

chain site, wherein the data is maintained and extracted at plural supply chain sites

in plural formats; and

upon a user request, the user being associated with a supply chain site,

formats a portion of the collected data into one of a

plurality of

views, responsive to criteria selected by the user, for presentation

to the user, the portion of formatted data being dependent on

access rights granted to the user, and

publishes the formatted data view to the user.

42.   (Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for allowing users to

monitor a supply chain, comprising:

program code for receiving, at a data collector site, supply-related data extracted from a plurality of independent supply chain sites, wherein the data is maintained at the supply chain sites in plural formats;

program code for storing the received data in a common format, at the data collection site;

program code for formatting, at the data collection site, and upon a user request, the user being associated with a supply chain site, a portion of the collected data into one of a plurality of views, responsive to criteria selected by the user, for presentation to the user, the portion of formatted data being dependent on access rights granted to the user; and

program code for publishing the formatted data view to the user.

43.   (Amended) A system for monitoring supply chain activity comprising a plurality of supply chain sites, comprising:

means for extracting, at each supply chain site, supply-related data to be monitored, wherein the data is maintained in plural formats located among the supply chain sites, at least one of the supply chain sites being independent of another supply chain site;

means for translating the data to a common format;

means for uploading and collecting, from each supply chain site, the extracted data to a data collection site;

means for formatting, at the data collection site, a portion of the collected data into one of a plurality of views, responsive to criteria selected by a user associated with a supply chain site, for presentation to the user, the portion of formatted data being dependent on access rights granted to the user's supply chain site, and

means for publishing the formatted data view to the user's supply chain site.

Please add new Claims 44-59.

44.   (New) A method of monitoring supply chain activity, the supply chain comprising a plurality of supply chain sites, the method comprising:

establishing a communications link between a first supply chain site and a data collection center;

installing a data transfer engine (DTE) in the first supply chain site, the first supply chain site being independent of a second supply chain site in the supply chain, the first supply chain site maintaining its proprietary supply chain information in a format that is different from a format in which the second supply chain site maintains its proprietary supply chain information, the DTE, upon a triggering event,

extracting selected proprietary supply-related information from the first supply chain site, and

forwarding, over the communications link, the extracted proprietary information of the first supply chain site to a data collection center.

45.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the DTE further monitoring the first supply chain site's proprietary information for changes, the triggering event being detection of a change to the proprietary information.

46.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the triggering event being the end of a time period.

47.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the triggering event being a request from the data collection center.

48.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the link comprising any or all of: Internet; a dial-up connection; and a virtual private network.

49.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the forwarded data being formatted using a formatting language.

50.   (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the formatting language is XML.

51.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the DTE being implemented in software.

52.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the DTE further:

prior to forwarding selected data to the data collection center, translating the selected data to a common format accepted by the data collection center.

53.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the data collection center analyzing the supply chain based on proprietary information from at least the first and second supply chain sites, all proprietary information having been translated into the common format.

54.   (New) The method of Claim 44, the data collection center analyzing the supply chain based on proprietary information from at least the first and second supply chain sites.

55.   (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the proprietary information includes any or all of orders, lead times, inventory, enterprise resource planning data, material resource planning data, and purchasing information.

56.   (New) A method of monitoring, at a data collection center, supply chain activity, the supply chain comprising a plurality of supply chain sites, the method comprising:

receiving, from at least two independent supply chain sites, supply-related information, said information being extracted from said supply chain site and being proprietary as to that supply chain site, the supply chain sites maintaining their respective proprietary information in different formats;

storing the received information in a database, in a common format;

receiving, from a user at a first supply chain site of the plurality of supply chain sites, a request for information; and

in response to the request,

formatting requested information into one of a plurality of views,

the information provided being dependent on access rights granted to the user's supply chain site,

performing an analysis of the supply chain based on the information received from the plural supply chain sites, and asserting alarm conditions resulting from the analysis, and

forwarding the formatted view to the user.

57.   (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein proprietary information is received from at least one supply chain site in the common format, said proprietary information having been translated to the common format at the supply chain site.

58.   (New) The method of Claim 56, herein proprietary information is received from at least one supply chain site in the supply chain site's proprietary format, the method further comprising:

translating said received proprietary information into the common format.

59.   (New) A method of monitoring supply chain activity, the supply chain comprising a plurality of supply chain sites, at least two supply chain sites being independent of each other, the method comprising:

at each supply chain site:

maintaining proprietary supply chain information in a format that is different from a format in which at least one other supply chain site maintains its proprietary supply chain information,

extracting selected proprietary supply-related information, and

upon a triggering event, forwarding the extracted proprietary information to a data collection center that operates independently of the supply chain site; and

at the data collection center:

receiving, from each supply chain site, the respective forwarded proprietary supply chain information,